

From: [Ellen Pirie](#)
To: [Billington, Tracie;](#)
CC:
Subject: Northern Santa Cruz CountyIRWM
Date: Thursday, February 08, 2007 2:31:23 PM
Attachments:

Ms. Tracie Billington
Department of Water Resources
Division of Planning and Assistance
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Dear Ms. Billington:

I am writing in support of the staff recommendation for the Northern Santa Cruz County IRWM. My understanding is that the recommendation is for 50 percent funding for the Department of Water Resources/State Water Resources Control Board Prop 50 IRWM funds.

I feel that the staff recommendation is the fair and equitable approach. I appreciate the effort to get more of the Prop 50 funds distributed quickly. The Northern Santa Cruz IRWM grant will be used to address critical coastal water supply problems as well as TMDL's; coho salmon and steelhead recovery. The grant will also keep the IRWM process moving forward in the Monterey Bay region.

As you know, the Northern Santa Cruz partner agencies have worked together to integrate projects since 1998, and have cooperated on IRWM development and implementation since 2002. They provided leadership for IRWM planning to other agencies in the Northern and Coastal Counties Water Bond Coalition. A \$12.5 million implementation grant now rewards this important effort. Project costs will escalate and the impact of a grant will be diminished if Santa Cruz County agencies are forced to delay these priority projects because of a lack of funding.

Many of the needs such as the water system improvements to meet public health standards in Davenport and Sediment TMDL implementation on the San Lorenzo River are extremely time-sensitive. We feel strongly that the Prop 50 IRWM funds should be directed to proposals that were called back for step 2, as described in the revised funding recommendations.

Sincerely,
Supervisor Ellen Pirie

Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors